

**NATURAL CURIOSITY.**—Recently, while the workmen of Mr. Harvey, of Glasgow, were cutting a log of Honduras, of about 19 feet and 22 inches in diameter, they were surprised to find, in the very centre of an otherwise excellent piece of wood, about 15 feet from the root, a bullock of 4 feet long by 9 inches wide, and tapering down towards the bottom. In the centre of this space they were still more astonished to discover what had been an entire hive of bees, with plentiful remains of bees, bees' wax, and a number of large cells, in each of which the honey in a solid state, something similar to the kernel of a nut, is still entire. On the discovery being made, Mr. Harvey paid attention to cut the log carefully around, and to preserve every portion of the wood which contained the hive, and it is now exceedingly interesting to trace the winding path of the bees all along the edge of the tree as long as its growth would permit, until at last they are fairly enclosed by the growth, and their industry put an end to for ever. Very little seems to be known of the age of the mahogany, but we should suppose that the tree in question may be about 300 years old.

**INES BLUNDELL.**—On Monday, the 16th ultimo, the foundation-stone of a new school was laid. At the ceremony there were present, besides Thomas Weld Blundell, Esq., and lady, and chaplain, the Blundell family of Crosby Hall; John Vaughan, Esq., of Courtfield, and lady; Miss Cordova, the Very Rev. H. Brown; Rev. Mr. Brown, &c. Mr. Macchelli, of Bootle, is the contractor. The following, with other memorials, was deposited:—"D. O. M. Lapidem primarium bulus scholæ posuit Domina Teresia Weld Blundell an. salut. 1843, die 16a Octob. Gregoria 16a Petri seden. tenente, Victoria regnante, Reverendissimo domino Gregorio, Episcopo Monasterii districtum Lancastrensem gubernante, Dono. Ignatio Greenough O. S. B. pastorem curam exerceente, Architecto L. I. Scoles. Hanc Scholam sexaginta flosu terlingu anabulibz donavit Carolus Robertus Blundell, arm. pro ejusdem eternitate attine dedit Thomas Weld Blundell, arm. pecunias suppeditavit Marcus Billington, Paleo. Frolicant Deus, et benedixit in bonorum nominis sui."

**WORK FOR CHURCH BUILDERS AT HONG KONG.**—It is said that the only places of worship in Hong Kong are a Catholic church and an American meeting-house.

It is said that prior to the passing of the Reform Bill, there was in Cornwall or Devonshire, in one of the small little boroughs of that period, a learned Theban reading, who had been mayor during the period of the French war, when an invasion of our coast was dreaded, and that when instructions were received by him from government that he should put the fortifications of his borough into proper condition, he was sorely puzzled to make out the meaning of the word; he conferred with the ex-mayor, and was little better for their united cogitations. The joke runs that some says relieved him by explaining that one fortification meant two twentifications.

**DESTRUCTION OF THE PYRAMID.**—The reason of the duration of the pyramid, above all other forms, is that it is most fitted to resist the force of gravitation; thus the pyramids of Egypt are the oldest monuments in the world.

**CHIMNEYS AND BLACK BRICKS.**—"A Manchester builder," writing to the Editor of the *Manchester Guardian*, says, "the principal cause of these insects abounding in houses is, that the kitchen flags are generally laid upon common cinders. If black and from the iron foundries be made use of, nothing will live amongst it; as I have proved by many years' experience."

**A CHEAP GREEN PAINT.**—One far mixed with yellow ochre makes an excellent green paint, well adapted for preserving coarse wood-work and iron rails.

The bridges of Paris have been nearly all externally repaired and cleaned. The Pont d'Austerlitz and Louis Philippe have had their wood-work repaired; the Pont Royal has been reconstructed; the Pont Carrouel has been freshly painted; and the Pont Royal and the Pont de la Concorde have been cleaned and arranged with Roman cement.

It is proposed to raise the sum of 50,000, on the principle of a Tontine, for the completion of the plan of the Prince's Park, Liverpool, begun with so much spirit, and at so great an expense, by Mr. R. V. Yates.

The alterations in Charter Cathedral, preparatory to the erection of a new organ, have commenced.

Not a useful word—but not afraid to use it. Many a man has pined in misery for years, for not having courage to pronounce that little unspeakable.

Iron and platinum are the only metals that can be welded.

## TENDERS.

**AWOBBY OF TENDERS** delivered for building three third-rate houses in William-street, Islington-fields, for Mr. Clayton, the size of each house 26 feet by 17 feet, consisting of two kitchens, shops, and parlour, one and two pair stores, area 2 feet 6 inches wide, and two vaults 6 feet deep in front of the house, an area 2 feet 6 inches wide, and garden ground 6 feet wide, with fence railing round same at back. The houses to include painting, and every other thing complete, stores only excepted.

Lucas	£1,456
Gerry	1,197
Macey	1,125
Navy	1,100
Park	985
Brighton	917
Dennis and Price	925

The tenders were opened in the presence of the parties.

**TENDERS** delivered Friday, November 3, for three houses, to be built opposite the Sutton Arms, Holborn.—Mr. Sherman, Surveyor.

Dingle	£1,197
Clancy	1,125
McGill	1,100
Park	985
Brighton	917
Dennis and Co.	925

## NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

The following contracts are advertised in different papers, and we have kept a register of the particulars of each at the office, which may be referred to on application. In the execution of this plan, which we set ourselves will be of service to our readers, material assistance will be rendered by the forwarding of papers from our country friends, or by any other means of notification of which they may choose to avail themselves.

**BRITISH OAK TIMBER, &c.**—14,000 loads of balk, 5,000 loads of plank, 400,000 British Oak Treasures.—Secretary of the Admiralty, Somerset House. Dec. 19.

**BOSTON CHURCH, LINCOLN-HIRE.**—Repairs and restoration.—Mr. Scott, architect.—Messrs. White and Lindsay, Boston; J. T. White, Hon. Secretary. Nov. 27.

**SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY TERMINAL, DOVER.**—Mr. Lewis Cubitt, 11, Great Russell-street; the (barman and Directors, London Bridge. Nov. 29. Building a Sewer, Banstead-street, City.—Sewer Office, Guildhall.—Joseph Dan, Prin. Clerk. Nov. 14, 1843.

Building a Sewer, Fife-foot-lane and Taylor's Court, Bow-lane, City.—Sewer Office, Guildhall.—Joseph Dan, Prin. Clerk. Nov. 14, 1843.

**NEW MARKET AND ENTRANCE, CARMARTHEN.**—Mr. Francis E. H. Fowler, architect, 105, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury; Town Clerk's Office, Carmarthen. Nov. 20.

**ST. OLAV'S CHURCH, RESTORATION.**—Mr. George Allen, architect, 69, Tenby-street, South-west; George R. Corner, Vestry Clerk. Nov. 28. Paint ingredients.—Navy Department, Dock-yard. Secretary of the Admiralty, Somerset House. November 21.

**COERING APPARATUS** for 800 inmates, Broomfield Workhouse.—B. Drew, Clerk. November 21.

## COMPETITIONS.

District Surveyor for the metropolitan parishes of St. George-the-Martyr, and St. Andrew, Holborn-above-the-Bar, and the Liberty of the Rolls.—Tenders to be sent in up to 30th December. Election next January Scheme.—C. H. Ellis, Clerk of the Peace.

Design for a testimonial to the late G. Channing, Esq., to be executed at Westport, at a price of 800 guineas.—Dr. Dillon, Ironmayer, Castlebar, Mayo, 20 guineas, Jan. 1, 1844.

Premium of a gold medal or money for the best mode of cleansing streets.—March 1, 1844, J. N. G. Gutch, 20, Vine-street.

**LEVANTIC AQUEDUCT, MELTON, SHROPSHIRE.**—Plans, specifications, and estimates for enlargement.—John Henry Borton, Clerk of the Peace. Nov. 18.

**SURVEY MAP AND APPORTIONMENT.**—Parish of Thebeldridge, Devon, 1,732 acres.—Mr. William Ginnins, Solicitor, Wetherbridge-street, Crediton. November 16.

**SURVEY MAP AND APPORTIONMENT.**—Parish of Cornworthy, Devon, 2,200 acres.—Mr. John Elliott, Alaisleigh, in Totness. Nov. 20.

Earl of Lancaster's Monument, at Hotham, cost 4,000 guineas.—R. N. Bacon, Hon. Secretary. Dec. 20.

Survey for the Borough of Stamford. Salary 30l. per annum.—Richard Thompson, Clerk to the Commissioners. November 14.

We beg to announce to such of our friends as were disappointed in obtaining impressions of No. 36, containing the large Engraving of the Infant Orphan Asylum at Wrotestad, that having completed the reprint of that Number, orders sent to the Office will meet with immediate attention.

## SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE.

**WOOD PAVEMENTS.**—"A Constant Reader" remarks on the unsatisfactory and "a most start of the wood pavement—a perfectly dry or perfectly wet condition being, as he remarks, indispensable to safe traffic by horses, and therefore the use of sweeping machines which promise so much is hardly available, as he thinks, except in dry or summer weather. He suggests the Russian method of coating with pitch and gravel. Something must be done, and various remedies are proposed. We have seen from a correspondent as to showing the horses, which will appear at the first vacancy. The Wood Paving Association may produce some thing valuable out of the competition they have invited for a cleaning machine. We look with interest to some useful and practical solution of this vexing question.

"G. R. W." makes many very just observations in reference to the mischievous operation of the local laws regarding windows. The law on all windows over a certain number, being, as he remarks, a law on public health, or upon light, and the more constitutional of health, and a law most unjust in the rule of application, inasmuch as by taking the number of windows, and not the superficial feet of glass, it gives the wealthy every advantage over the poorer and trading classes—the small window of the latter being assessed at the same rate as the large window of the former.

"An Architect and Suburbanite."—In his comment on the *Suez Memorial* design of Mr. Hansom, questions the propriety of so much aid in behalf of his late Royal Highness, and complains that the design falls very far short of what might have been expected from "a man of standing and character;" the skill and imagination of the design is much at fault, "coupled with his incorrect taste as regards proportion." The round of the structure of various styles he likens to a man's uttering every alternate word in a different language, and that the opinion that he is formed of his character is, that "all is vanity, pomp, and show, and egregious folly the principal ingredients." "What," says he, "is a particular style of architecture, but the symbol of the character of a nation? Where can he find out the simplicity and luxuriousness of the Roman—where the simple grandeur of the Greek—or where the bounteous generosity of the pointed style?" "The architecture," he says, "is subordinated to the sculpture, instead of the reverse. Here the whole is cut up and defaced for the simple purpose of retaining originality, and how signally has it failed." He urges the more fitting character of the "Baroque monument of Lynceus—its" classic beauty, Greek simplicity, and imposing grandeur;" and although he would not advocate the ropping altogether the works of the ancients, he regrets our being at backward, that we must "look with awe and reverence upon them, and sorrowfully reflect upon our own want of imitation and talent in designing." He concludes by despatching any pains against the author, or interest in the work, and trusts that whatever is received may be "worthy of the architects of the nation to which we are indebted; and of the present pains days of architects and architects." We here take with pains given the marrow of his critique, which may remain as one period for any remarks it may call for in reply.

**WATER UTILIZATION.**—"J. Foster" recommends the adoption of superficial stone or lead gutters at the tops of houses now in progress of building, instead of hollow staves, or in the open air in the garden, exposed to freezing, provided the water supply be equal to the height. He has adopted the plan himself, laying on the water to each story, the first cut being under considerable ramped with the comfort and convenience, the saving to servants, enabling the running up and down stairs with pails and pails of water, &c., and the supply of boilers on the upper story for warm baths, &c.

**WOODEN PAVEMENT.**—"Mr. Brodus Jones" writes in explanation and commendation of his plan of wood pavement pursued by the Metropolitan Company. The grand desideratum, he declares to be the concrete foundation, composed of blue clay and mortar made, a matter we are indebted to in treating of the *Metallurgical* ground some weeks back. He describes the character of the block and mode of applying dovetailing, are commensurate the advantages, which consist of "connection and a distribution of the effect of pressure and percussion, and that it withstands expansion."